

April 6, 1977

LB 62

PRESIDENT: Senator Newell. The question is the...do you want to close debate on anything, Senator Savage.

SENATOR SAVAGE: I have no closing. I move its approval.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The question is the adoption of this report of the Committee on Committees. Record your vote. Please vote. Record.

CLERK: Record vote read. (See pages 1302 and 1303, Journal.) 29 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Committee on Committees report is adopted. We go now to a matter not on your agenda. Senator Chambers has spoken to the Speaker about this matter. LB 62, a motion to take from the committee. There has been no action taken by the committee. So it would be a motion to report LB 62 to the floor notwithstanding the fact that no action was taken by the committee.

CLERK: Mr. President, just ahead of that there is an explanation of vote by Senator Venditte on Mr. Bob Snow which will be inserted in the Journal.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, LB 62 as drafted is a bill calling for the election of Douglas County Commissioners by District. Due to an inadvertence in the drafting it requires or calls for a nonpartisan election. During the Committee consideration of the bill, an amendment was adopted which would retain the partisanship aspect to the elections in Douglas County. With this correction, there was no opposition to this bill by the Douglas County Board. Now when this bill is brought to the floor, as I believe it will be, it is understood by everybody involved that the amendment which was adopted in the committee will be adopted on the floor requiring the election to remain on a partisanship basis. The bill is easy to be understood. There are five commissioners. They will be elected from Districts and on a partisanship basis and I move that this bill be brought to the floor of the Legislature.

PRESIDENT: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to support Senator Chambers' motion to bring this bill from the committee. Senator Chambers mentioned that the committee had not taken any action on this but I think it is an important bill that ought to be brought before the full Legislature. I would like to explain just a couple of things, that the Douglas County Board voted in favor of this bill, in favor of the change to district elections, four to one. Douglas County is one of the few counties in the State of Nebraska that does not elect it by district and it is also the largest county in the State of Nebraska by population and there is a need, I think, a great need to do this and I also mention one more point that unlike Senator Chambers' bill to make City Council of Omaha elected by district, there is no city charter. This is not the rape of any charter or anything like that. This